

# News Release



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## DONNER STATE PARK REMAINS CLOSED BY PLAGUE ALERT

TRUCKEE, Calif. –Donner Memorial State Park in the Sierra Nevada remains closed to camping for the Labor Day weekend while State Parks officials await the results of tests taken on two squirrels and a domestic cat from the park to determine if they have been infected with bubonic plague.

Officials said the park would remain closed to both day use and camping most likely until the middle of next week when the test results are expected. The Visitor Center and museum at the park remain open and would continue to operate during its normal hours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

State Parks officials voluntarily closed Donner Memorial State Park as a precautionary measure Wednesday after Nevada County health officials issued an alert for a possible outbreak of bubonic plague in the region. On Tuesday a domestic cat from the park became ill and was taken to a veterinarian for treatment. Symptoms in the feline are highly suspicious of plague, according to Nevada County health officials.

State Parks officials said Friday that test results on the feline and squirrels might not be known until next Wednesday or Thursday, and closure for both camping and day use remains a necessary precaution.

Campers with reservations at Donner Memorial State Park have been notified their reservations are being honored at two nearby Lake Tahoe parks – Sugar Pine Point State Park and Emerald Bay State Park. If they choose to cancel their reservations, they are being offered full refunds.

Before the closure was ordered, the park was expected to be full this Labor Day weekend, traditionally the last big camping weekend of the summer.

Outbreaks of plague among animals have occurred in the area in the past, including at Donner Memorial State Park and other recreational areas in the greater Truckee area. This summer, Nevada County health officials issued their first alert in the Truckee area on August 15 and have issued two since, the latest on Tuesday.

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